

The return of large predators in Europe - does it work?

- How

ReCo

Supporting biodiversity conservation along the
European Green Belt - targeted restoration measures
for endangered species | 28 February 2025

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Western Pomeranian Nature Society lynx reintroduction projects



The return lynx to north-western Poland

project implementation period – April 2017 - October 2023

Since October 2023 we are implementing the Life project:

Expanding the range of the lynx population in northern Poland.



Number of the individuals released from January 2019 to August 2024

Year	Males	Females	total
2019	17	9	26
2020	16	8	24
2021	3	9	12
2022	6	1	7
2023	6	5	11
2024	4	5	9
	52	37	89

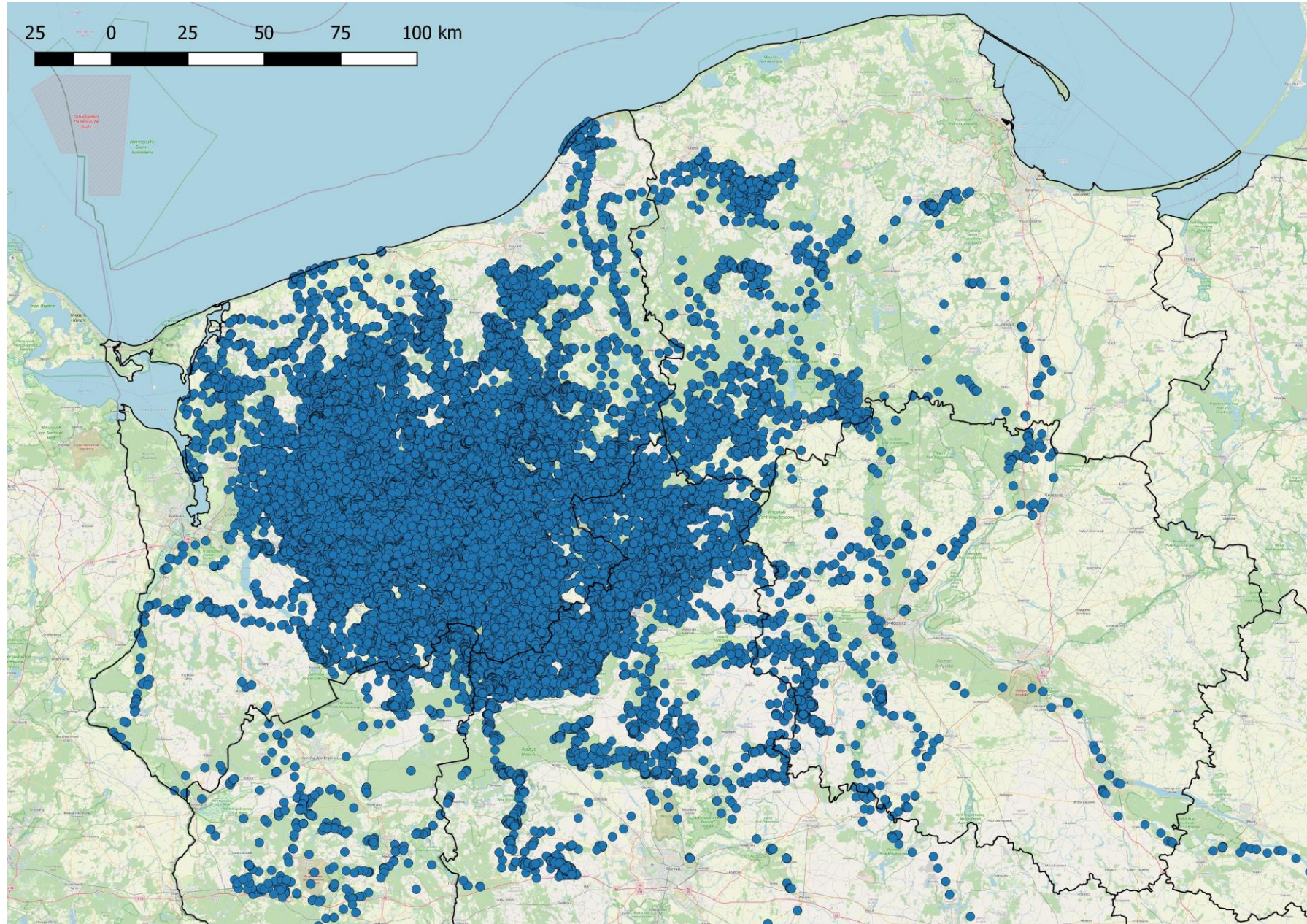
Western Pomeranian Nature Society lynx reintroduction projects



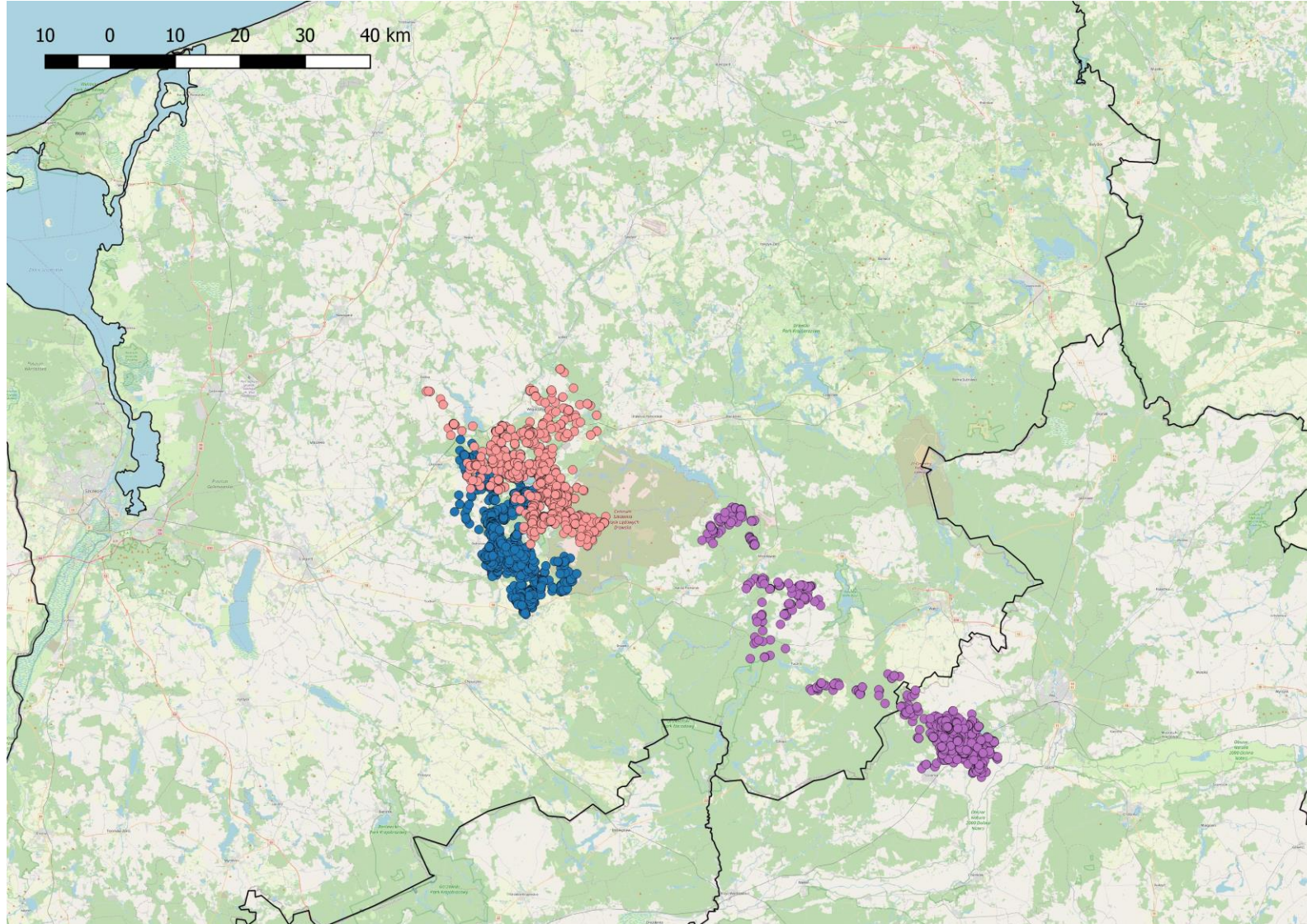
The estimated population size at the end of 2023 was **90** lynx individuals

Half of living individuals were **born in the wild**

Spatial distribution lynx population in north-western Poland 2019 - 2024



Reproduction in 2019 and 2020

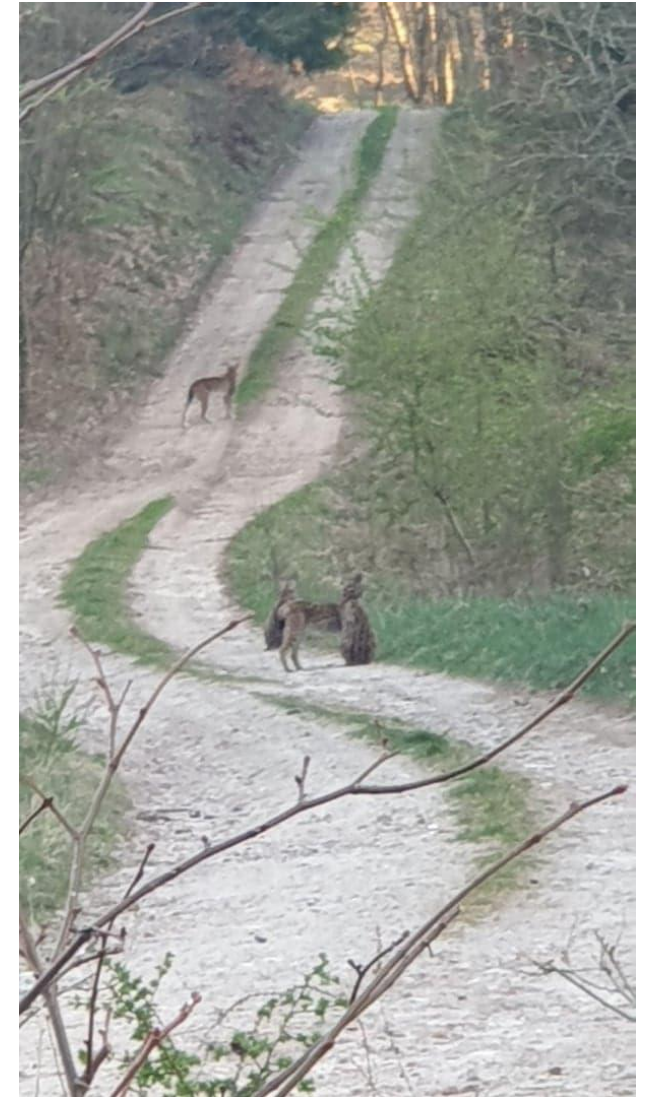


2019 – first year of releasing lynx, female - Cleo gave the birth

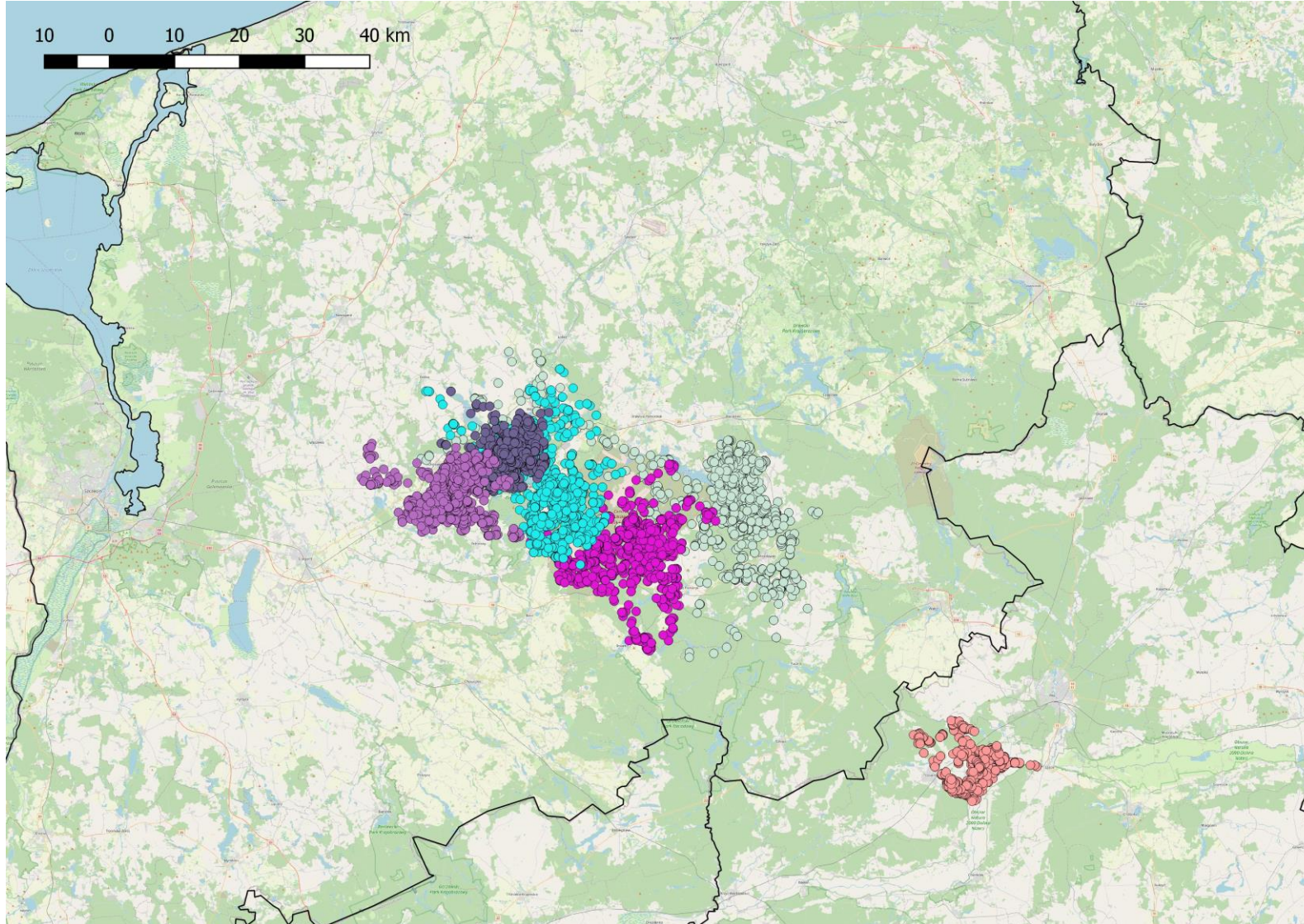
2020 – Cleo's second reproduction, two more female had kittens

	Number of breeding females	Number of born kittens
2019	1	2
2020	3	6

Reproduction in 2019 – very first



Reproduction in 2021



First event with 4 cubs in a litter

Female Luna gave the birth and raised the kittens out side the forest

	Number of breeding females	Number of born kittens
2021	6	17

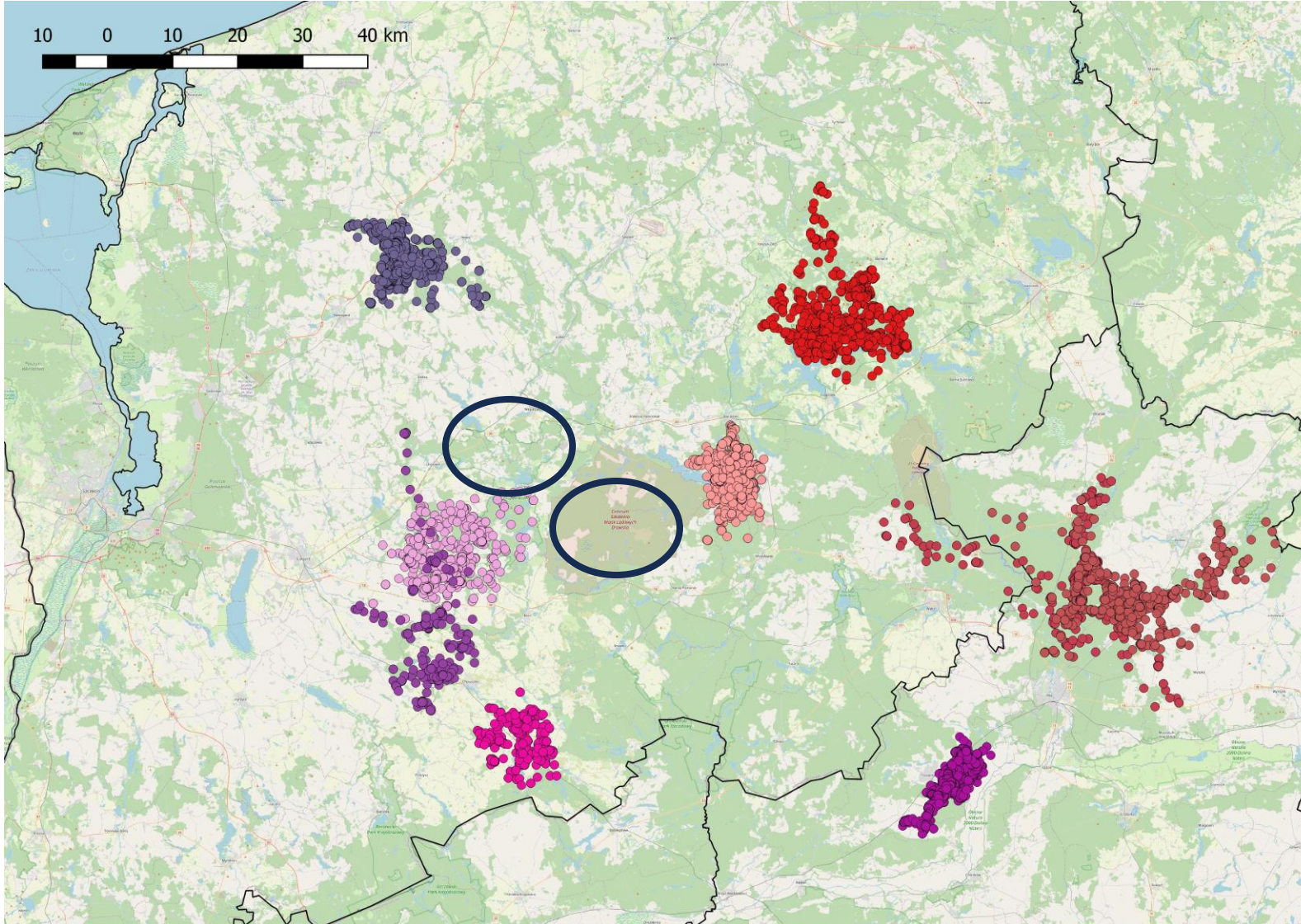
Fields and meadows



Kittens born in Noteć river valley




Reproduction in 2022



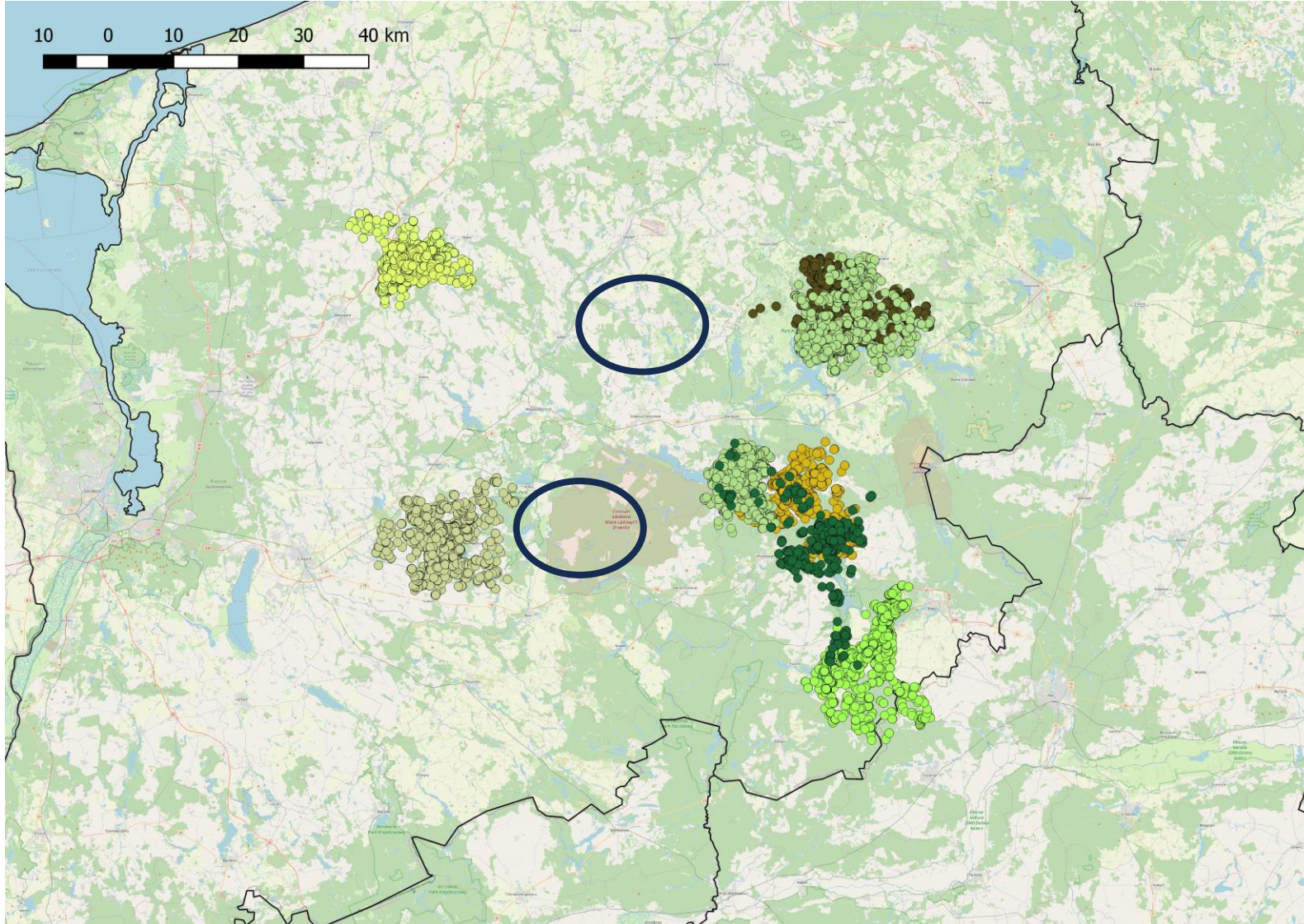
Genetic confirmation of reproduction of male born in the wild in 2020

A case that mother and her kittens were shot with shotgun and killed

	Number of breeding females	Number of born kittens
2022	10	25

 - female without collar

Reproduction in 2023




Three females gave a birth to 4 cubs

One female gave a birth to 5 cubs

Two, born in 2022 in the wild female gave the birth

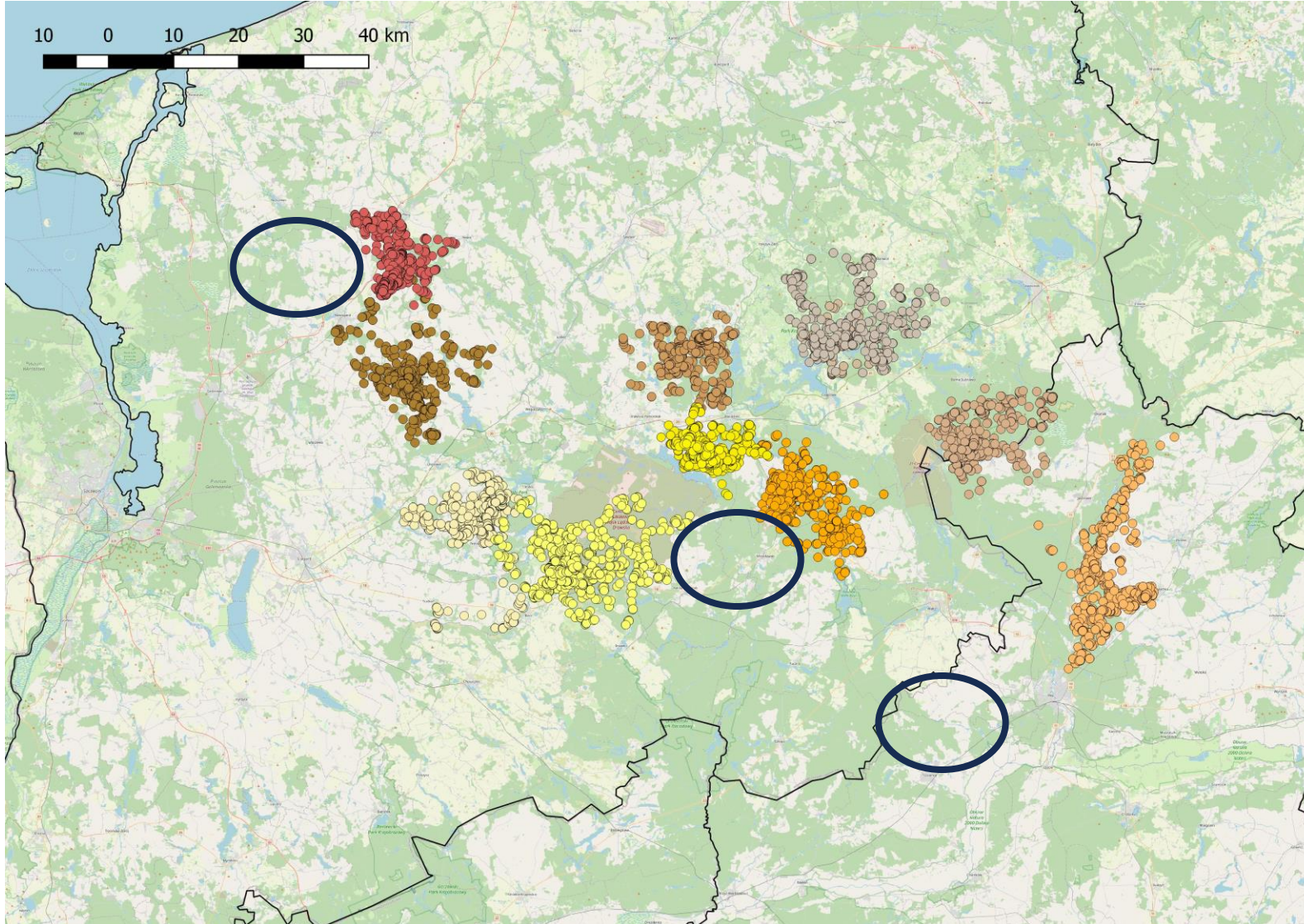
	Number of breeding females	Number of born kittens
2023	10	31

 - female without collar

Wild born kitten 2023



Reproduction in 2024




Five wild born females with collars gave a birth

Three wild born females without collars gave a birth

Reintroduced in 2020 female gave a birth fourth time

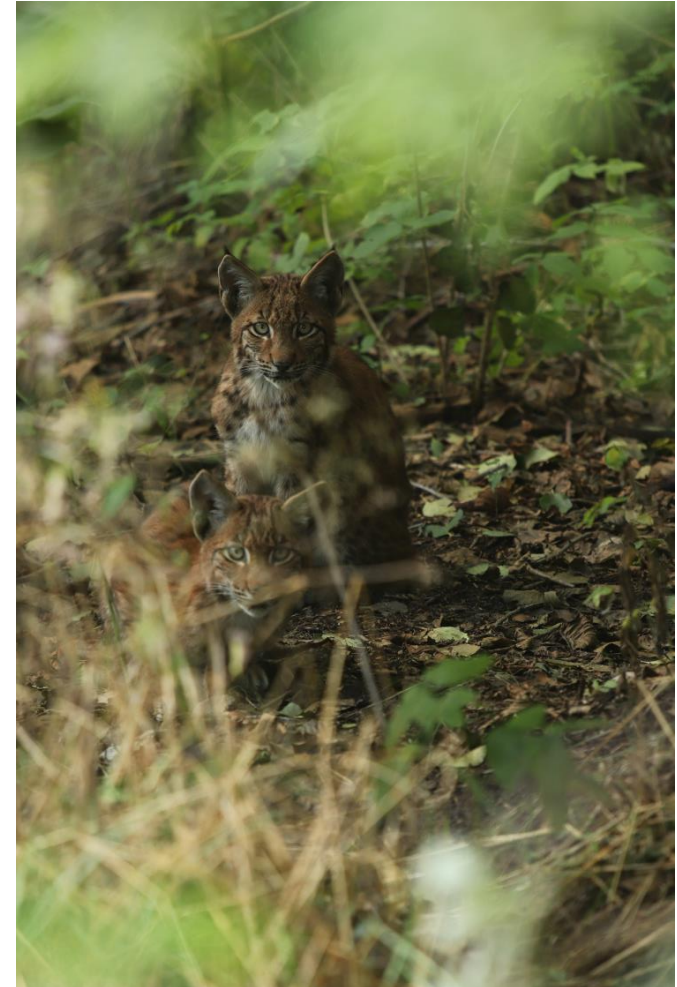
	Number of breeding females	Number of born kittens
2024	13	?

 - female without collar

Numbers

Number of born kittens

Year	Number of breeding females	Number of born kittens	Number of kittens after first winter
2019	1	2	2
2020	3	6	2
2021	6	17	9
2022	10	25	11
2023	10	31	21
Total	30	81	45



Numbers

In six consecutive years 2019 - 2024 females gave birth 42 times

Among the mothers there were 17 reintroduced and 10 wild born ones

Births in row

Years births in row	Number of females giving birth
1	19
2	5
3	3
4	1



Localization of den



Localization of den



Localization of den



Family life

